

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPT. 8 PRESS ROUNDUP

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1. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM SAID IN MOSCOW THAT HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO HAD CONVINCED HIM THAT SOVIET UNION IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN CONCLUDING NEW SALT AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

2. POST ALSO REPORTED THAT EGYPT WOULD RECEIVE 250.9 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN ARMS UNDER SALES PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED SEPT. 7 BY PENTAGON, INCLUDING RECONNAISSANCE DROMES TO KEEP TRACK OF ISRAELI MOVEMENTS IN SINAI DESERT. STATE DEPARTMENT, POST SAID, IS CITING EGYPT'S MODERATE STANCE ON MIDEAST ISSUES IN JUSTIFYING ADDITIONAL SALES OF AMERICAN ARMS.

3. REUTER DISPATCH, PUBLISHED BY WASHINGTON POST, SAID
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PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED CONGRESS SEPT. 7 TO AGREE TO HIS CONTROVERSIAL OFFER TO SELL MODERN AIRBORNE RADAR WARNING SYSTEM TO IRAN. WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL SAID U.S., IN ADDITION TO DELETING CERTAIN SENSITIVE SUB-SYSTEMS FROM AWACS, WOULD LIMIT NUMBER OF AMERICANS INVOLVED IN PROGRAM IN IRAN. HE SAID AMERICANS WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN OPERATIONAL MISSIONS, AND PLANES WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR

DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. POWELL SAID CIA DIRECTOR TURNER, WHO INITIALLY OPPOSED SALE BECAUSE HE FEARED PLANES AND SECRET EQUIPMENT NORMALLY INSTALLED IN THEM MIGHT FALL INTO SOVIET HANDS, HAD SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED HIS POSITION ON SECURITY PROBLEMS AFTER IRAN GAVE ASSURANCES ABOUT PRECAUTIONS INSISTED ON BY U.S. POWELL TOLD NEWSMEN "TURNER HAS NOW TAKEN POSITION THAT SPECIAL MEASURES NOW CONTEMPLATED, IN COMBINATION WITH IRAN'S SECURITY RECORD IN OTHER SUCH SITUATIONS, WILL MATERIALLY REDUCE RISK OF ANY COMPROMISE." AS IN CASE OF PROPOSED ARMS SALE TO EGYPT, CONGRESS CAN BLOCK THIS SALE IF BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE ADOPT RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF TRANSACTION BY PRESIDENT.

4. ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN SYNDICATED COLUMN PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STAMPED OUT MOST DAMAGING OPPOSITION WITHIN HIS OWN OFFICIAL FAMILY TO SALE OF AWACS RADAR PLANES TO IRAN, BUT HIS DECISION TO FORCE ISSUE IN CONGRESS IS STILL ONE OF HIS MOST COURAGEOUS AND MOST DANGEROUS STEPS SINCE TAKING OFFICE." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID LIBERALS OPPOSED TO SALE HOPED PRESIDENT WOULD NOT RENEW TRANSACTION, BUT PRESIDENT IS GOING AHEAD "BOTH TO PROVIDE EARLY WARNING AGAINST SURPRISE SOVIET ATTACK AND POSSIBLY TO STIMULATE AWACS PURCHASES BY WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES." THEY RECALLED THAT BEFORE AUGUST RECESS, UNEXPECTEDLY SEVERE OPPOSITION FORCED UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER TEMPORARILY TO PULL BACK FROM CONGRESS PROPOSED 1.2 BILLION DOLLAR TRANSACTION., EVANS AND NOVAK SAID CONGRESSIONAL FOES OF TRANSACTION ,HAVE BEEN HELPED BY ALLIES WITHIN CARTER ADMINISTRATION., WHAT PARTICULARLY DAMAGED CARTER IN JULY, THEY POINTED OUT, WAS ,STUNNING ATTACK" ON SALE BY CIA DIRECTOR TURNER, WHOSE OPPOSITION WAS BASED ON "CONCERNS OF ESPIONAGE." TURNER'S OPPOSITION, THEY REPORTED, HAS ENDED, AS WELL AS "MUTED OPPOSITION" BY JESSICA TUCHMAN, NSC AIDE ON ARMS CONTROL MATTERS. "BUT ELSEWHERE IN ADMINISTRATION, CARTER'S POLICY IS BEING SUBTLY UNDERMINED -- PARTICULARLY BY ACDA. THIS IS REFLECTED IN ACDA'S SABOTAGE OF ANOTHER PROPOSED WEAPONS DEAL. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED THAT ACDA'S OPPOSITION TO SALE OF F-15 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA SEEMED TO ITS ACDA CRITICS TO VIOLATE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN EDICT AGAINST INTRODUCING ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO AREA THAT DID NOT HAVE THEM. THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT MOTIVATES MANY LIBERALS ON CAPITOL HILL IN FIGHTING AWACS SALE TO IRAN." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID ANOTHER "UNDERCOVER CRITIC OF THE PLAN" IS DR. LYNN DAVIS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY AND PLANS AND PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF NOTORIOUS PRM-10 STUDY ON U.S. FORCES."

COLUMNISTS SAID DAVIS WROTE A LETTER TO DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN OUTLINING HER OBJECTIONS, BUT BROWN'S "OWN SUPPORT

HAS MOUSETRAPPED DAVIS." BROWN REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESIDENT AWACS SALE TO IRAN HAS "CLEARLY ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID IF PRESIDENT LOSES THIS BATTLE IN CONGRESS "HE MAY WELL HAVE LOST WHOLE ARMS SALE WAR."

5. HENRY BRADSHER, WRITING IN SEPT. 7 WASHINGTON STAR, SAID SOVIET UNION HAS PROPOSED THAT PART OF NEW SALT PACKAGE PROHIBIT U.S. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT NEW WEAPONS, INCLUDING CRUISE MISSILE. ,THIS RECENT PROPOSAL, WHICH PENTAGON STRONGLY OPPOSES, IS ONE OF STICKING POINTS IN EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE SALT TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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TREATY," BRADSHER SAID. HE CITED TWO REASONS WHY SOVIET PROPOSAL IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PENTAGON: "ONE IS THAT BAN ON RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING WOULD MEAN THAT, IN CASE OF TREATY BREAKDOWN OR OTHER FORM OF STRATEGIC ARMS CRISIS, NEW WEAPONS WOULD BE YEARS AWAY FROM PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT.... OTHER PROBLEM IS IN BEING SURE SOVIETS ARE NOT DEVELOPING NEW WEAPONS. SECRECY HIDES THEIR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT., VANCE

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